



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1158th Transportation Company expected home Wednesday

Unit drove more than two million miles in Iraq

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1158th Transportation Company is scheduled to be back in Wisconsin Wednesday after serving more than 14 months on active duty and service in Kuwait and Iraq for nearly one full year. The unit's 280 soldiers are headquartered in Tomah, with detachments in Beloit and Black River Falls. They were ordered to active duty Oct. 21, 2004 and deployed to Southwest Asia in December 2004. The unit is expected to arrive at Volk Field Wednesday, Dec. 14, aboard two separate charter flights, the first at about 8:20 a.m. and the second at around 3:45 p.m.

Soldiers will be met by senior National Guard officials, the Guard's 132nd Army Band, and as many as 2,000 family members, friends and fellow Guard soldiers. Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton will be on hand to greet the second flight. Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," the soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

While deployed overseas, the transportation soldiers were based in Kuwait, but their mission was operating convoy missions in Iraq. The unit drove their M1070 Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs) well over 2,000,000 miles on missions that took them from the Kuwait-Iraq border throughout Iraq.

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1158th Transportation coming home

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This was the second post-9/11 mobilization of the 1158th Transportation Company. In March 2003 the unit was ordered to active duty for an expected overseas mission, however half the company was released from active duty after three months at Fort McCoy. The unit's other soldiers performed missions at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Irwin, Calif., before they were released from active duty between December 2003 and March 2004. The second mobilization order followed about six months later.

After redeployment of the 1158th Transportation Company, the Wisconsin Guard will still have about 1,950 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 1,750 are currently deployed overseas.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of the 1158th Transportation Company Wednesday. The unit is expected to arrive at Volk Field aboard two chartered aircraft. The first flight is scheduled to land at about 8:20 a.m. and the second is expected at around 3:45 p.m. Volk Field is located near Camp Douglas in Juneau County, just off exit 55 on Interstate Highways 90-94.

Following each aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing. It is not yet known exactly when they will return to their hometown armories in Tomah, Beloit and Black River Falls before they are released from active duty.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field arrivals should call Lt. Col. Tim Donovan (608-242-3050 or Cell 608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. News media will not be permitted on the base unless arrangements have been made in advance.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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